Free movement of scientists from India

2691. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether US Government has removed barriers to the free movement of scientists from India in recent time; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The United States examines visa applications of scientists working in certain scientific areas in accordance with its domestic regulations in this regard. This process also applies to Indian scientists. Following the nuclear tests in May 1998, the United States applied tighter restrictions on travel by Indian scientists to the United States.

(b) Government has been conveying the United States that such restrictions are unjustified and counter-productive to the development of scientific and technological co-operation between India and the United States that both countries desire. US scientific organisations, including the American Physical Society, voiced their concern over US restrictions on free scientific exchanges between India and the United States. As a result, a number of scientists and officials from Indian scientific organisations have travelled to the United States on official work in recent months.

Chinese reaction to the autonomy plans of Dalai Lama

2692. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States have recently called on China to open a dialogue with Dalai Lama about his autonomy plans of Tibet and issued a condemnation of Beijing's human right record in the region;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Chinses authorities to the proposal; and

(c) whether the Chinese reaction to the autonomy plan of Dalai Lama would affect our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Government have seen reports to this effect.

(b) The Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman, in a statement on June 21, 2000, said that "Tibetan affairs is purely China's internal affairs, which brooks no interference from foreign countries. The US government has clearly stated that the US recognises Tibet is a part of Chinese territory and does not support Tibet's independence. China urges the US to practice what is preaches, correct its errors and earnestly honour its commitments".

(c) There is no reason to believe so.

Discussion with EU on growing terrorism

2693. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister during his recent visit to Lisbon shared his concern with the top leadership of the European Union assembled there, about growing terrorism in South Asia; and the need for acquiring nuclear capability;

(b) if so, what was the precise content of the Prime Minister's exposition and the EU leaders reactions thereto;

(c) whether any co-operation in dealing with terrorism was offered by the EU leaders if so, in what terms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. during the India-EU Summit held in Lisbon on June 28, 2000, Prime Minister conveyed India's concerns about the growing threat of international terrorism to global and regional peace and security. He also shared with his interlocutors India's security concerns, including in the context of developments in the region. Prime Minister emphasised that international terrorism, including